Year	Investment in Agriculture		GDPM		Investment in Agriculture as percent of GDPM	
	at current prices	at 1993-94 prices	at current prices	at 1993-94 prices	at current prices	at 1993-94 prices
1995-96	18925	15690	1188012	993946	1.6	1.6
1996-97	21618	16176	1368208	1067445	1.6	1.5
1997-98	22794	15942	1522547	1115247	1.5	1.4
1998-99	22864	14895	1740985	1182021	1.3	1.3
1999-00	28152	17304	1936925	1266358	1.5	1.4
2000-01	27573	16687	2104298	1316340	1.3	1.3
2001-02*	31554	18057	2296049	1388139	1.4	1.3

*Quick Estimates

GDPM—GDP at Market Price.

Suicide by farmers in Punjab

563. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received reports that more than sixty farmers had committed suicides in Punjab during 2002-2003;

(b) whether reports of suicides by farmers under pressure loan recovery by banks and financial institutions during that year were also received from other States, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such recovery continued even in drought hit areas despite Prime Minister's announcement for its non-recovery; and

(d) the steps taken by Government, the Reserve Bank of India and other authorities to relieve the stress of debt recovery from farmers' mind?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government has not received any reports on suicide by farmers in Punjab or any other States during 2002-2003. The Government has also not received any reports on coercive recovery of loans by banks and financial institutions in any part of the country during the said period.

The Reserve Bank of India in consultation with the Government has issued Standing Guidelines for providing relief to the farmers in areas affected by natural calamities. These guidelines include, *inter alia*, the following measures:

I. Convert/reschedule loans in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage of crops.

II. Grant fresh crop loans to affected farmers.

III. Convert principal as well as interest due on the existing loans.

IV. Grant of consumption loans.

V. Not to compound interest in respect of loans converted/ rescheduled.

VI. Not to charge penal interest in respect of current dues in default.

In addition, the RBI/NABARD has advised the banks to extend specific credit related relief measures to the drought affected farmers of the country following the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 14th November, 2002. These measures include the following:

I. There should be no recovery of any amount either by way of principal of interest during the current financial year in respect of Kharif crop loan.

II. The principal amount of crop loan should be converted into term loan and will be recovered over a period of minimum five years in the case of small and marginal farmers and four years in the case of other farmers (as against three years stipulated in the existing guidelines).

III. Interest due in the current financial year on crop loan should also be deferred. No interest should be charged on the deferred interest.

In order to further mitigate the hardship of farmers in the drought affected States, the first year's deferred liability of interest on Kharif loan has been waived as a one time measure.